

Say Anything dare to defend their double album

The LA pop-rockers have also squared off with line-up changes and mental illness, but now find themselves on the upswing

musicpreview

Say Anything

With *Thrice* and *Attack in Black*
Sunday, 10 February at 6pm
Edmonton Event Centre

PAUL BLINOV
Arts & Entertainment Editor

A successful and acclaimed double-album is like the lost treasure of rock & roll: although many attempted to make one, few of such releases rarely result in commercial and critical gold. But as foolhardy as the quest may be, Los Angeles pop-rockers Say Anything are attempting to beat the odds with the release of their two-disc opus, *In Defense of the Genre*. According to keyboardist Parker Case, the 20-plus songs on the album are a gift to the fans who have waited for three years for any new material from the band.

"It's something we've talked about doing since day one," he explains. "The way I see it, there was so much time between *Is a Real Boy* and this record, it was made a double record to give the people who have waited so long for a lot of new material to enjoy. There were some cancelled tours, and this release got pushed back, so we [had to] tour on *Is a Real Boy* again."

Setbacks aren't unusual for Say Anything; in the early years, they were frustratingly common. Originally formed by singer-songwriter Max Bemis and drummer Cody Linder, the band has seen the usual line-up shifts of a young band—which currently



features Bemis, Linder, Case, guitarists/brothers Jake and Jeff Turner, and bassist Alex Kent—as well as some much more uncommon problems: Bemis is bipolar, and for a dark chapter in the band's history, he was paranoid of everyone else involved. His mental instability led to some cancelled tours, but after a final lineup juggle, Bemis' mental state started to pick up.

"I'd heard the band before I

actually joined, and all of those problems happened during that [time]," Case admits. "The point that I joined the band was right around the time that Max was coming out of all of that stuff that I thought was the 'dark' kind of thing. I joined at the same time [as the] guitar players, Jeff and Jake. [Since then], I feel like the band's been stable; all of those [bad] things—maybe it was the personnel at the time—I wasn't even there for."

Since then, it's been much clearer skies for the band. They spent Christmas successfully touring the UK—which was well acclaimed, considering their new album hasn't even dropped overseas, putting them in the exact same situation of their previous trip.

"It was good; last time we were over there, our first record, *Is a Real Boy*, hadn't come out yet. So that was interesting to see how many people

knew the songs from the Internet. Then we went back, [and] our new record hadn't come out over there. We did pretty well, especially for the amount that we go over there."

In defense of the double album, Case has only gushing words about his frontman's songcraft.

"All the songs were great on [*In Defense of the Genre*], so it wasn't like we were trying to pick better songs to make a smaller record."

Bryson still learning to express himself

musicpreview

Jim Bryson

With Shuyler Jansen
Thursday, 7 February at 8pm
The Blue Chair (9624 76 Avenue)

DAVID JOHNSTON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

He's been involved in music and bands since he was in high school, and he's currently on tour promoting his third album, *Where The Bungalows Roam*. But after it all, Jim Bryson still has qualms about the best way to express his musical intentions.

"The biggest struggle with music is just finding the way to communicate it," the Ottawa-based singer/songwriter notes. "It's like the old saying, 'Talking about music is like dancing to architecture.' It's tough to communicate something that's more about feel or tone."

Bryson got his professional debut with the band Punchbuggy before breaking apart to pursue his own solo career in 2000. And with his breakaway came the development of his own unique style, a blending of non-classical folk and hard rock. But the artist is hesitant about the exact location of his musical niche.

"I've been told I'm not quite folk enough to play the folk shows and

I'm not quite rock enough to play the rock shows," he laughs. "So I sort of exist in a hinterland that draws from everything around it. I like where I am."

"Once I got going at it, my goal was to not have a day job, and it's been four and a half years since I've had one," he continues.

That would be around the release date of his second album, *The North Side Benches*, which had a lot more musicians and artists involved compared to *Bungalows*, which was laid out over a shorter time frame than its predecessors.

"Once I got going at it, my goal was to not have a day job, and it's been four and a half years since I've had one."

JIM BRYSON
SINGER-SONGWRITER

"It's the first time I didn't do a record where we all got together and rehearsed the songs. It was just my drummer and one other guy, and then we just recorded fast [...] and I played a lot of the instruments," Bryson says, adding that the album

is a little quieter and more pensive than his previous efforts, representing the gradual change in his unique style.

Bryson has been on his cross-country jaunt for *Bungalows* since back in October and just took a month off to "fart around at home" before continuing his musical journey westward with a new group of touring companions, including Shulyer Jansen and Baby Eagle.

"For the most part in my touring history, it's been with friends, people I've met through singles shows or through other people," Bryson says. "I've been sent on tour with people I didn't know before, but I've rarely had a bad experience [...]. Honestly, I've been pretty lucky."

Luck is a repeating factor for Bryson; he seems to accept his success and accolades with a noticeable aura of humility. But there's a lot of hard work involved for the rocker—he's spent a lot of time carving out his style, playing in other bands, and developing as an artist. There seems to be no stopping this Canadian songster—although you won't hear him admitting that.

"I always do it with the expectation that it's not going to last forever. I try to be pretty pragmatic and realistic about it all, and I feel very lucky to be able to do it. The more I'm at it, the luckier I feel."



Adaptation brings tear to *The Eye*

This unfortunate remake features Jessica Alba and little else

filmreview

The Eye

Now Playing
Directed by David Moreau and Xavier Palud
Starring Jessica Alba, Alessandro Nivola, and Rade Serbedzija

EDMON ROTEA
Arts & Entertainment Staff

While zombie and slasher-torture films continue to dominate the box office, Hollywood has also attempted to replicate the success of another breed of horror film: Asian remakes. American versions of Asian horror films continue to proliferate with releases such as *The Ring*, *The Grudge*, *The Return*, and now *The Eye*—a remake of the Hong Kong horror film *Jian Gui*.

The movie stars Jessica Alba as Sydney Wells, a young and blind symphony violinist recovering from a successful cornea transplant. However, the transplant has side effects: Sydney experiences unusual visual phenomena that includes visions of the recently and the soon-to-be deceased—a plot that was originally inspired by a real patient who committed suicide shortly after undergoing a cornea transplant.

Such visions are so disturbing that they drive Sydney to seclusion away from the world of sight, eventually enlisting the help of ocular therapist Dr Paul Faulkner (Alessandro Nivola) in seeking the truth behind the unfortunate fate of her cornea donor.

However, *The Eye* is another Asian horror film that continues to suffer from an endemic problem in Hollywood—the “Houdini” effect—with the Americanized version attempting to become bigger and better than its original foreign-language predecessor in a blatant attempt to appeal to Western audiences. Despite its grander budget, more elaborate special effects, and eye-candy like Alba, the film is

unfortunately shortsighted in its execution, as seen in its overt exposition, shallow character development, and the explosive yet incredibly unrealistic and absurd Hollywood-style climax.

First, *The Eye* features too much exposition, with many elements of the film’s plot and characters being revealed too quickly and with too much repetition. Sydney keeps experiencing a fiery vision—a premonition. Whereas the visual and narrative exposition of *Jian Gui* gradually alludes to the events that explained such a vision, *The Eye* assumes that North American viewers lack an attention span or a good short-term memory, continually reminding audiences of that same fiery vision over and over again throughout the film.

The Eye also lacks the character development seen in the original. Whereas *Jian Gui* goes into greater background detail and delves into the rationale behind the deaths of the individuals whom Sydney encounters as ghostly apparitions, such ghosts in *The Eye* are merely flat, two-dimensional characters with little background information other than how—but not why—they died.

Themes of familial bonding and connection are also severed in *The Eye*. While many scenes in *Jian Gui* concern the death of family members, such scenes also serve to advance the plot and reveal important character information, especially about the ghostly spirits. But such a theme is scrapped in *The Eye*, with the original’s scenes being replaced instead with montages of cheap, in-your-face instant scares and senseless action sequences.

The Eye aims to deviate from the usual trend of zombie, slasher, or monster films. However, the American remake falls prey to the usual themes and narratives of typical Hollywood film, transforming another unique and creative Asian horror film into another average American horror movie intent on generating ticket sales. Even though the film features Alba, horror movie fans should gaze away and avoid watching the *The Eye*—and instead keep an eye out for the original Asian version at their local video store.

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Mad Money a cheap script

filmreview

Mad Money

Now Playing
Directed by Callie Khouri
Starring Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah, and Katie Holmes

VANESSA HORNE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Comedian Dane Cook has argued that every man wants to be part of a heist; however, *Mad Money* shows that stealing millions of dollars can be a woman’s job too. Directed by Callie Khouri (who wrote and directed *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*) and starring Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah, and Katie Holmes, *Mad Money* banks on those actresses’ pre-established fanbases to bring in an audience. But despite their resumés, this girl-power heist film doesn’t show anything you haven’t already seen in *Ocean’s 11* through *13*.

The movie starts with some some non-linear confession scenes but moves into a breakdown of why these three decided to rob the Federal Reserve in Kansas City. Bridget Cardigan (Keaton) is an upper-middle-class housewife who, with no work experience and a 12-year-old degree in comparative literature, is determined to make some money to pay off her family’s debt after her husband is laid off. She takes the only job opportunity available—janitorial work at the Federal Reserve—and there she’s in constant awe of the amount of money that

passes through and how much gets destroyed. Bridget develops a plan to steal worn-out money, then ropes Nina (Latifah) and Jackie (Holmes) into her heist plans. Between the three of them, they make several unnoticed withdrawals from the Federal Reserve. However, their desire to spend the money eventually gets them into trouble.

Unfortunately, the script depends on using stereotypes to carry each character. Of course, Latifah plays the single black mother who wants the best for her kids. Of course, it’s upper-middle-class Bridget who can’t resist buying a shiny new ring just to impress her neighbours. The use of these stock characters gets a few laughs—Queen Latifah offers to pay for her sons’ education in crack—but generally leads to predictable line delivery and story progression. Throw in a confusing ending, and you aren’t left with much.

Furthermore, it’s hard to tell if the film intends to be satirical or sincere. Bridget is particularly difficult to like or feel sorry for, with her motivation for stealing millions of dollars hardly being altruistic. Only after she can have the big diamond ring she’s always wanted is she able to move onto more important things, like her relationship with her husband and her friendship with Nina and Jackie. Although she does come through for everyone in the end, Diane Keaton will never be another Annie Hall or Kay Corleone.

Mad Money is a fun movie, and if you want more of the heist genre, or if you wanted to know how a woman would steal millions without wearing a cat suit, then it’s probably a must-see. But besides a few laughs, this movie is another case of a cast that’s all dressed up with nowhere to go.



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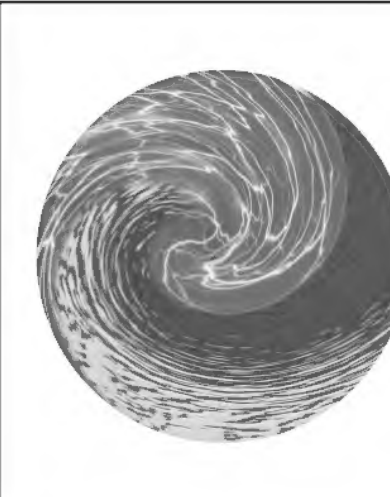
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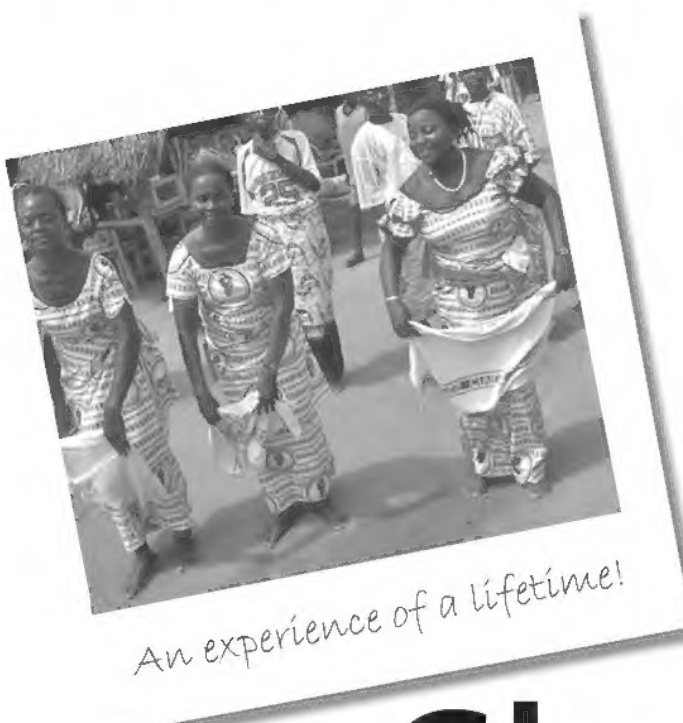
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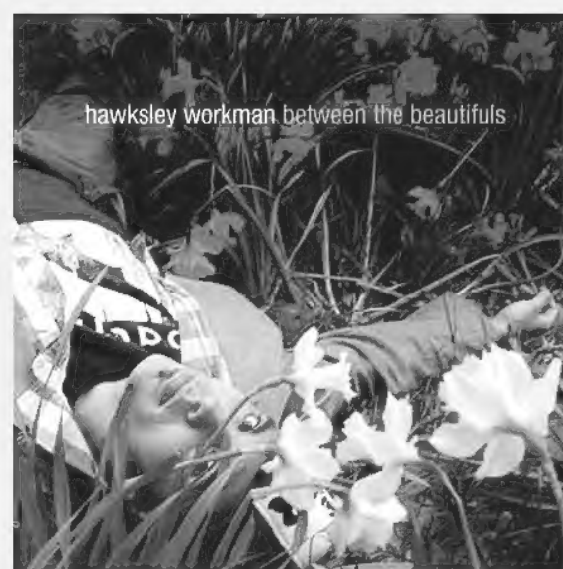
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featured album

Hawksley Workman
Between the Beautifuls
Isadora Records

BRYAN SAUNDERS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Whether he's writing love letters to his imaginary muse, Isadora, in the personals section of a magazine or recording music in a one-room schoolhouse, Hawksley Workman is famous for his eccentricity and dramatic flare.

It's disappointing, then, that the creative energy that gives Hawksley's work its usual flavour and appeal is sometimes lacking in his newest album, *Between the Beautifuls*. Tracks like "Prettier Face," "September Lily," and, fittingly enough, a track entitled "It's Not Me," don't sound like typical Workman fare at all. These songs are regrettably and uncharacteristically

subtle and generic, and could have been produced by any male singer-songwriter out there. In Workman's own words, "It's not me / I don't usually do this / It's not me / I'm not usually like this."

That said, if these aforementioned songs had the name of any other artist attached to them, they would be considered gems. However, because Workman has previously set such a high bar for himself, these songs fall short of his usual standard, and may be a disappointment to any longtime fans.

Fortunately, there are a number of extraordinary songs on this record that

do measure up on his creative yardstick. Songs like "Alone Here," "The City is a Drag," and "Piano Blink" are all remarkable, and show that Hawksley is still quite capable of pushing the envelope. The bonus Los Manlicious remix of "Piano Blink" at the end of the album is especially exuberant in an incredibly smooth way that only the quirky Canadian can pull off.

If any doubts remain, the lyrics of the explosive "Pomegranate Daffodil" quickly put them to rest. Without a doubt, this track displays the lyrical style, the over-the-top singing, and the instrumental mastery that are Hawksley's hallmark. He opens the track singing the words "Don't fuck around anymore" and quickly takes his own advice by delivering the kind of remarkable performance that listeners have come to expect of him.

Listen to tracks from *Between the Beautifuls* on the Editor's Playlist at www.thegatewayonline.ca



albumreview

Scarlet Sins
Scarlet Sins
Independent

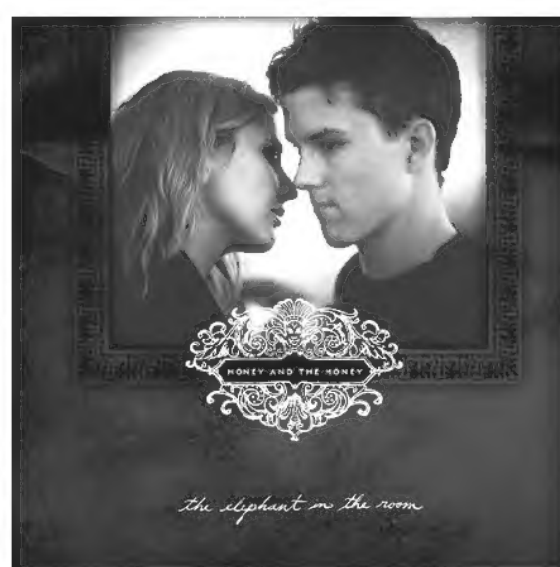
PAUL KNOCHER
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Try and say "all-female metal band" and not laugh. I dare you. I double dog-dare you because you can't. In a world where people used to describe Avril Lavigne as "punk rock," the concept of a legitimate quartet of rocking females is an absurdity. Or at least it was.

Scarlet Sins fill their self-titled debut album with a heavy bass, plenty of dark lyrics, and music that's just generally best played loud. But the band is still able to switch up into a little slower fare in "With You" or "Broken" while still keeping their own distinct metal sound.

Lead vocalist Sylvy Nuvynska is really what will hook you to the band, as she certainly doesn't have a stereotypical voice for a female singer. That's because it works perfectly for rock instead of pop, though you begin to feel like her vocals are eclipsing some of the band's other musical talent after a while. This is especially true in "Reborn," where an awesome guitar solo seems to stop short for the vocals to cue back in.

The album isn't without its low points, like the stereotypical filler song "Backstabber." However, it's far from deserving mockery and worth checking out to see how well the fairer sex can rock out when they do it properly.



albumreview

Honey and the Money
The Elephant in the Room
Independent

GARY ALLEN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Honey and the Money doesn't sound like an indie act, but independent they are. Their album, *The Elephant in the Room*, sounds more like something released by a contestant from *American Idol*: hopelessly bland in an attempt to offend the least amount of people. Earnest is the best way to describe the album; the vocals are as grating as Emmy Rossum's smile.

The Elephant in the Room is the first

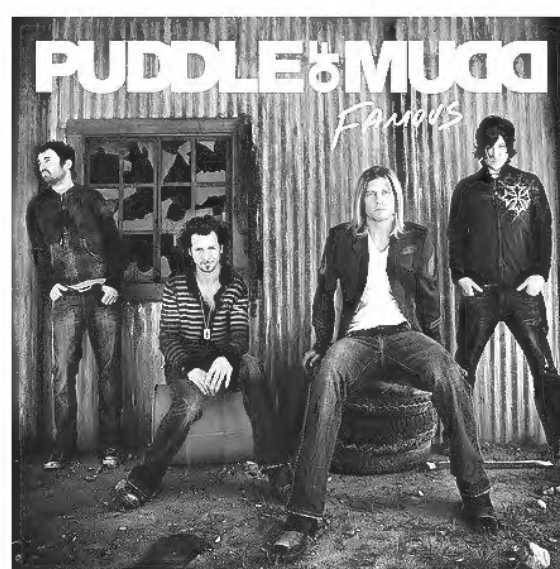
full-length album from Leila Harrison and Matt Clarke, who originally went by the name Madisen. The band's website describes the album as "filled with hooks," but they have obviously never heard songs like "Biology" by Girls Aloud that define the term hook-laden.

There are a few bearable songs on the album: "Back to Your Friends" is still overly full of emotion, but the "Every Breath You Take"-inspired

guitars keep the song moving so you can at least see the end coming. "Heartless Romantic" also manages to make the emotion work for the first time on the album, with lush strings and excellent production value. The production on the album as a whole is generally good, but it's nothing to get excited about.

In the end, the real elephant in the room is that this album is completely unnecessary. When you buy an independent album, you expect a sound that you wouldn't find at a big record label; *The Elephant in the Room* sounds like a Carrie Underwood album, albeit dislocated from Nashville.

If that's your thing, buy *The Elephant in the Room*, as Honey and the Money are competent musicians, and your money's better spent on them than stuffing Simon Cowell's pockets.



albumreview

Puddle of Mudd
Famous
Geffen Records

BEN STANFORD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Puddle Of Mudd is a Missouri-based grunge band with a signature sound they just can't shake, especially on their new album *Famous*. POM haven't changed from previous albums *Control* and *Life On Display*, shown by the generic lyrics and exact same rhythm of every track on every album. They sound like Nirvana, but the lyrics are bland and terribly unoriginal, consisting of songs about wealth ("Famous"), being

nonconformist ("Living On Borrowed Time"), and being accepted ("Merry-Go-Round"), but with the majority being about girls.

That said, they may not have original sound or lyrics, but musically, they're still great. The grunge riffs are clean, with some tight, throaty vocals. The song that originally piqued my interest was their single "Psycho" because of the extremely catchy intro and the

differing sound, which is surprising for POM. "Psycho" borders on mainstream rock, but within that genre, it sounds refreshingly different from the Nickelback clones on the radio today.

"Moonshine" quickly becomes the stand-out track—lyrically, it's just another song about comforting a girl, but it has great guitar work with great picking—and "Thinking About You," a slow rock song, is hands down better than any generic slow-rock number, showcasing Wes Scantlin's impressive vocals. The equally-excellent guitar makes the song, with awesome chord progressions and a dramatic sound that leads you through the weak lyrics. So although the band still hasn't changed, if you liked Puddle Of Mudd from their previous albums, this one won't let you down.



KATIE MOONEY

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD Receiving the ball from fifth-year setter Brock Pehar (8), graduating middle Adam Kaminski (3) goes for the kill Friday.

Volleyball veterans show true colours against TRU

Graduating players put on golden display in the last regular-season home game

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

In a single play during Saturday night's win against Thompson Rivers, the Bears volleyball team's three graduating players demonstrated just how valuable they are to the Alberta roster.

The evening began with a ceremony honouring fifth-years Kevin Hatch, Brock Pehar, and Adam Kaminski, and the first rally of the night was a perfect example of why.

The first serve of the night belonged to TRU, and was received by Hatch, the libero, who passed it across the court to Pehar, the setter. He, in turn, put the ball up for middle Kaminski, who put down the kill for Alberta's first point of the night.

"It was like that through the match; it was just great," Alberta head coach Terry Danyluk said. "It's kind of funny how every year we have this evening, and those players who are graduating always play well. Today was another one of those examples—it was nice to see that for them."

Alberta (14–2) took down the WolfPack (8–8) in three sets on both nights, thanks in no small part to the three Bears seniors. Pehar in particular had a good weekend, notching 31 assists and one service ace on Friday night and 29 assists and five aces the next.

"I was just trying to enjoy it," he said. "I've had a great time here, and I've always enjoyed playing in this gym, but it was a little extra special today."

All three players were happy that their last regular-season memories in the Main Gym come from Saturday's game rather than Friday's.

"It's kind of funny how every year we have this evening, and those players who are graduating always play well. Today was another one of those examples—it was nice to see for them."

TERRY DANYLUK
BEARS HEAD COACH

Though Alberta won in three straight sets on both nights, the Bears squad was unquestionably in better form the second night and their opponents in worse.

The first set on Friday night, which went 25–22 to the Bears, was closer than they would have liked, and though Alberta closed up the next two sets with

more authority, Danyluk wasn't entirely pleased with the way the night went.

"I don't think we started all that well today. I'm actually disappointed in how we started," he said after Friday's victory. "As long as teams think they can play with you, and you let them, they will, but as soon as you start to maybe put a bit more pressure on them, their weaknesses start to show."

"I still would like us to be hungrier. We have an older team, and sometimes it's hard for them to keep going and going and going, but that's what it's going to take for us to be the best that we can."

Saturday night was completely different, however. Alberta started out strong and easily dominated TRU. And while the Bears were back on their stride, the WolfPack had problems.

"Last night I was pretty happy with [us]; I thought they came out playing. Tonight I'm really disappointed—we didn't come out playing at all," TRU interim head coach Dave Olynyk said Saturday. "And yet we thought we were ready tonight. Obviously, we weren't."

Alberta won the first set 25–11 and the next two 25–21 and 25–16 to close it off.

"Today was a lot better," Danyluk said of Saturday's performance. "I thought the guys responded and played a lot more consistently."

Pandas throwing out mixed signals in weekend sweep

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

On paper, the Pandas volleyball team's two three-set sweeps against the Thompson Rivers WolfPack this weekend looked like a standard performance from the defending national champions. But in reality, the sets were much closer than the final scores would indicate—especially on Friday night.

The Pandas (13–5), looking unusually disorganized in the first match of their series against TRU (4–14), trailed the 'Pack for much of the first set—down 16–8 at one point—before knuckling down to recover and win the set 25–22.

"It was really uncharacteristic, and that's where it gets frustrating," Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler said. "When you see [your players] making mistakes on balls that they normally are able to handle, it gets frustrating—and I'm sure it's frustrating for them too."

Though the Pandas didn't face the same kind of uphill battle in either of the next two sets, they were nonetheless closer than the Pandas would have liked. Alberta won them 25–22 and 25–20.

"We just have to be accountable for our play, and it just wasn't good enough," Eisler said. "You work really hard to prepare for an opponent, and we talk about what we've got to do, but if you don't do the simple things and take care of the ball when we have it, then none of the other stuff matters."

It wasn't all negative for the Pandas, however. Eisler was pleased that they

were able to pull out wins from all three sets, and cited a clutch dig from outside hitter Jocelyn Blair in the first set as an example of the determination that kept Alberta in the game.

"I think it was a real statement that whatever it takes, we're not letting that ball hit the floor."

Alberta showed the same dedication on Saturday night, but they were also performing better in almost all other aspects of their game. Though the first set was again very close—going 26–24 for the Pandas—the level of play was elevated on both sides from the previous night. After that, however, the Pandas were clearly dominant: the next two sets ended 25–18 and 25–15 in their favour.

"We were way better tonight than we were last night," Eisler said after Saturday's victory. "If you're not there to see it, the scores don't necessarily reflect it, but right from the get-go we had better control of our game when the ball was on our side of the net."

The Pandas still have plenty of room for improvement after Saturday, though. The close score in the first set can at least partly be explained by looking at the ten service errors Alberta committed.

"It was pretty hard for us to pull away because we just couldn't run any points," Eisler said. "We couldn't score points off the serve, so it stayed close right up to the end."

It was in the second two sets on Saturday that the Pandas were able to finally earn some breathing room, which Eisler attributed to stamina on



MIKE OTTO

WILLING IT OVER THE WALL Panda Jocelyn Blair (2) powers the ball past Thompson Rivers' blockers on Friday night.

her players' part.

"I think we were just the same, and their level just dropped off," she said. "A lot of teams can play at a fairly high level for X amount of time, and often the great separation between teams is who can do it longer."

TRU head coach Carrie Barrett wasn't happy with the outcome of the weekend's games, but thought her

players performed well nonetheless.

"I thought we did a very good job of fighting and fighting and trying to maintain that, but for us to be making playoffs, we needed to try to get a split out of this weekend," she said. "We're a young team, and it's some of those growing pains you've got to learn how to deal with."

Eisler also gave credit where it was

due to the 'Pack for making Alberta work so hard for its four points.

"You can see why they've taken sets off of every top team in the conference with the exception of us so far," she said. "They really make you play honest, and they bring a lot of punch with their serve; they're good tactically, and if you don't show up to play, you're going to be in for a long night."



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By Robin Collum

No-show Friday, big show Saturday

When I heard the final score for Friday's women's basketball game—that the UBC Thunderbirds (19-2) had walloped the Pandas (15-5) 86-49—I was completely flabbergasted. Sure, the T-Birds, who are in second place in the Pacific division after Simon Fraser, were favourites going into the game, but certainly not by that much, and the whole thing was highly unusual for the Pandas, who have otherwise been having a good season and are tied for first in Canada West's Central division.

The Pandas recovered from the setback the next night, however, and beat the University of Victoria 86-81 in overtime. Forward Trish Ariss led the game in scoring with 26 points—more than half of the entire team's score the night before—and point guard Ashley Wigg was right behind with 21.

B-ball Bears devour T-Birds

As their female counterparts were dropping the ball, the Bears (14-6) were putting it in the net this weekend. They tipped off against UBC (16-5) on Friday night, winning 75-70. UBC was ranked fifth nationally going into the weekend—Alberta wasn't even in the top ten—and have clinched the first-place spot in the Pacific division, so the win is especially impressive.

On Saturday night, the Bears took on the Vikes (13-8) and won 60-58; 27 of those came from fifth-year guard Alex Steele, who led the game in scoring once again—he had done so on Friday night as well, putting up a 29-point performance.



THE UBYSSEY

AT SIXES AND SEVENS Alberta guard Ashley Wigg tries to get by UBC's Erica McGuinness on Friday night. Wigg only put up two points that game, however.

More West Coast wins

The Canada West-leading Pandas hockey team (19-2-1) was on the coast this weekend too, enjoying Vancouver's cloudy skies and mind-numbing drizzle and beating the fifth-place UBC Thunderbirds (6-15-3) twice.

On Friday night, the two teams went all the way to a shootout, but Miranda Miller supplemented Alana Cabana and Katie Borbely's regulation goals and won the game 3-2 for the Pandas.

Saturday night wasn't such a nail-biter, as the Pandas were up 3-0 by the end of the second period—thanks to a natural hat trick from Lindsay Robinson—and held on to that for the rest of the game.

With these victories, the Pandas have all but secured the first-place spot in Canada West.

Saskatchewan shootout casualties

Last but not least, the Bears hockey team (20-3-2) was on the road this weekend as well. They swept a series against their long-time conference rivals, the Saskatchewan Huskies (16-4-6), and clinched first place in Canada West in the process.

On Friday night, the Bears won 5-4 in a shootout, while Saturday night's game was a more decisive 3-1 victory for Alberta. Ian MacDonald scored the shootout winner Friday.

Underpant buddies!

Motto and I have matching underwear today! Actually, he's got boxers on, and I'm wearing fancy boyshorts, but they're both grey, so it almost counts.



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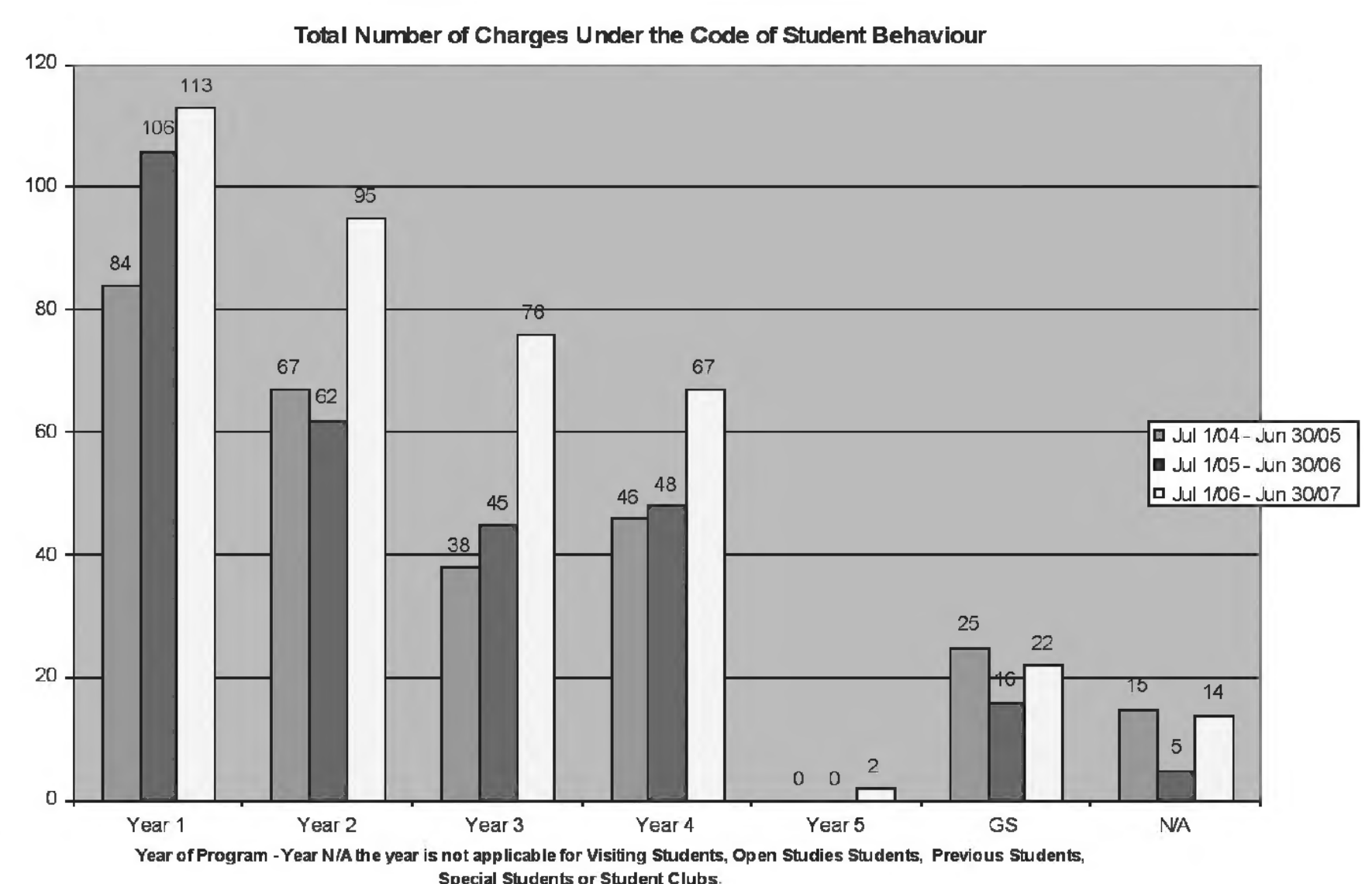
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Provided on behalf of the
GFC Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC).

Peerless playoff predictions pt 1

All of Alberta's teams have made the playoffs; here's how I think they'll fare



ROBIN
COLLUM

Sports
Commentary

Alberta's major varsity teams will reach the end of their respective regular seasons in the next couple of weeks, but for each of them, the next few games are only the beginning—the Bears and Pandas hockey, basketball, and volleyball teams are already gearing up for spring.

All of Alberta's teams have clinched playoff spots already, so all that's left to be decided in the last few matchups of the year for most of them is exactly where they'll place and who they'll be up against. But that uncertainty isn't keeping me from making fearless predictions, so here's the lowdown on what I think some of Alberta's teams have coming to them in Canada West post-season play.

Bears hockey

The only Alberta team with more than two games left in their regular season, the ice Bears (20-3-2) are nevertheless secure in their position at the top of the Canada West heap. They've already clinched first place in the conference, and as such are guaranteed a bye through the first round of the playoffs.

In Canada West, the top six of the conference's seven teams are admitted to the quarterfinals, with the first- and second-place teams earning byes. They'll then each host a best-of-three series to determine who makes it to the conference final.

This year, my bet—and it's not a particularly daring one—is that the final will be between Alberta and the Huskies (16-4-6) in Edmonton.

Meeting in the conference final is hardly an unusual situation for these

teams—if it happens this year, it will be the seventh year in a row, and the games will be must-sees for even casual hockey fans. Whoever makes it out of the quarterfinals, neither Alberta nor Saskatchewan will have any problem dispatching them. The final will be much tighter, but not too tight. These teams have met four times in the regular season, and the Bears have won each time, though usually not by a very wide margin. My money's on the Bears to win in two games and head to nationals in Moncton.

Pandas hockey

This is probably the most exciting year yet in Canada West women's hockey, as the Pandas finally have some real competition for the title of best team. The Pandas (19-2-1) have had the Manitoba Bisons (17-3-2) nipping at their heels all season, and it's no stretch to predict that they'll face off in the conference final (neither Saskatchewan nor Regina—the other two playoff teams in third and fourth place respectively—will be much of a hurdle in the semis).

What happens in that series—which, barring the freak chance that last-place Lethbridge (3-17-2) sweeps Alberta this weekend, will be at Clare Drake—will be exciting for anyone interested in the future of women's hockey in Canada West. For years, the Pandas have dominated, skating circles around the opposition and racking up huge scores. They've won six national championships since the 1999/2000 season, but with the rise of the Bisons, it looks like there could be something resembling parity on the horizon.

That said, the Pandas have won three of the four matches the teams have played this year—Manitoba put up a 3-2 victory the first time they met, but Alberta followed that up with 2-0 win, and then swept the next series 3-2 and 5-2—so I think they'll prevail and head to Ottawa for

the CIS championships.

Pandas volleyball

Compared to how things stand for the hockey teams, the Pandas' playoff situation is much less clear-cut, and a lot rides on the results of this upcoming weekend, particularly for the teams at the top. On Saturday and Sunday, the Pandas will face Manitoba here in the Main Gym, and most of the league will be paying close attention to what happens.

Seven of Canada West's eleven teams make it to playoffs, with the first-placed team earning a bye in the first round and hosting the Final Four. Right now, Manitoba (17-1) and UBC (17-1) are battling it out for the top spot, and Calgary (14-4) and Alberta (13-5)—third and fourth respectively—are each trying to secure third.

As the Pandas and Bisons face off, UBC is up against fifth-place Trinity Western (12-6). The Spartans should be able to take a set or two away from the Thunderbirds, though I highly doubt they'll win a match. But if the Pandas can beat the Bisons twice—which is unlikely but conceivable—sets won and lost would become the deciding factor for first place. As for Calgary, they play Thompson Rivers (4-14) this weekend and will almost definitely win both games.

All of this means choosing a post-season winner is even tougher, but because three teams from Canada West will advance to nationals this year, all the Pandas have to do is medal in Canada West. They shouldn't have any trouble doing that—last year's national champions, they have plenty of experience in tough playoff spots—and even if they can't beat UBC or Manitoba, neither Trinity Western nor Regina—their likeliest first-round rivals—should pose a problem.

Check back on Thursday for the rest of Robin's post-season predictions.



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

MAKING WAVES The U of A's synchronized swim team, a non-varsity club, performed their aqueous arts on Saturday night, putting on a water show in the West Pool in the Van Vliet Centre. Swimmers performed both group and solo pieces.

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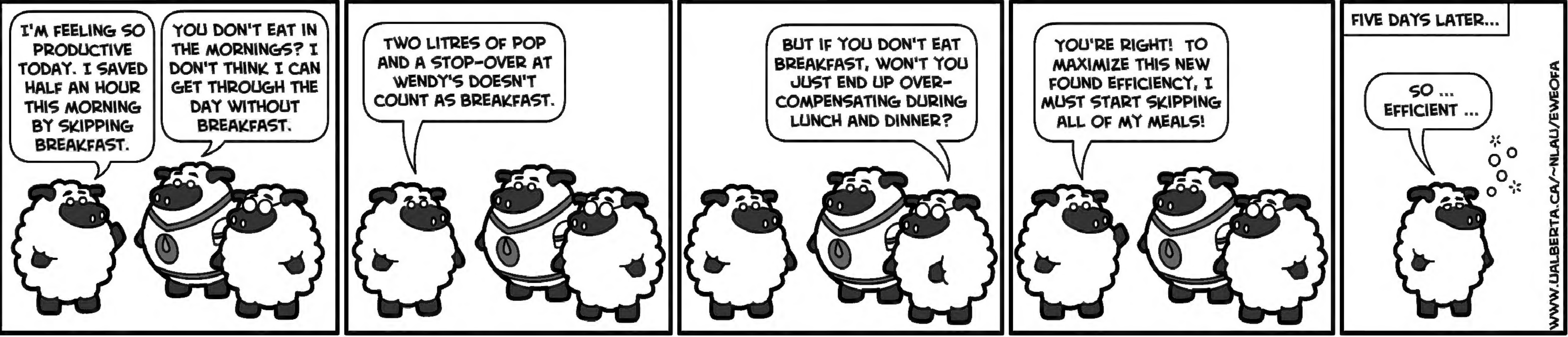
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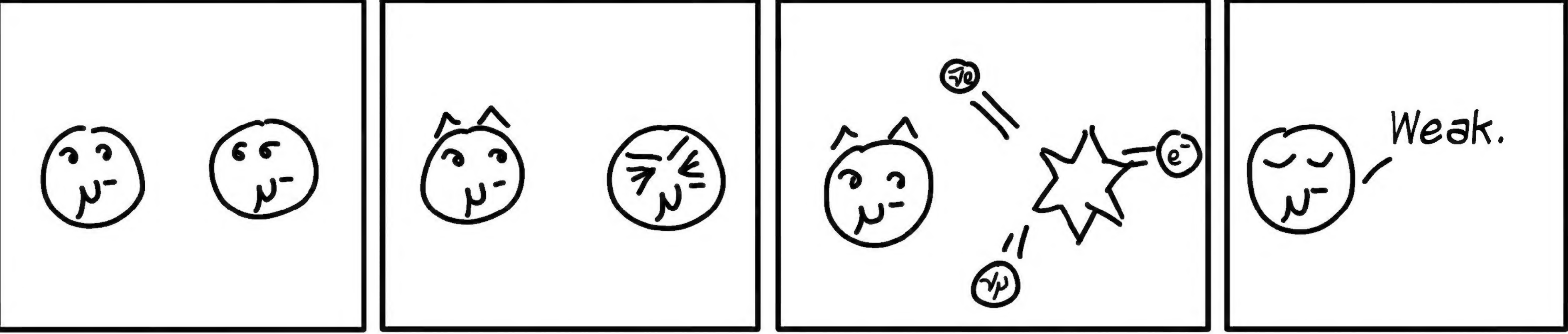


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EWE OF A by Norman Lau



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PERSONALS

Young, attractive student couple looking for some fun with other couples. Email objectare@gmail.com

AVALANCHE OF PANCAKES

A tournament was recently held to honor the life and times of the late Lord Gibson Togeriswan, heralded as one of the greatest Eton Wallers of his time.

All in all, the Togeriswan Cup was a tremendous success, despite some criticism that the whole thing was "kind of a shitty idea."



LAURENSTIEGLITZ

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THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 32 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ tuesday, 5 february, 2008



SAM BROOKS

STOP THE VIOLINS I-Week concluded last Friday evening with a concert featuring musicians, dancers, and artists representing many different cultures at Myer Horowitz Theatre. For more I-Week photos, please see pages 8-9.

‘Canada matters,’ Ignatieff insists

Deputy Leader of the federal Liberals hits campus to talk about Canada’s place in global politics

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

Students and faculty members crowded into a law building lecture room last Friday to hear Michael Ignatieff, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, give a talk on “Canada in the World: the Challenges Ahead.”

Anne McLellan, academic director of the Institute for United States Policy Studies, introduced the sponsored speaker, highlighting his pre-political achievements, which include publishing several books and holding numerous teaching posts.

Ignatieff started by extending a welcome to those in attendance—including Conservative notables such as Stockwell Day lingering in the background—stressing that while he’s “capable of bare-knuckled partisanship in lots of occasions,” this wasn’t a partisan political occasion, but rather an academic one.

“Canada matters,” he began, adding

that now is the time for Canada to exert leadership outside its borders.

“We matter intensely; we matter more than ever before. So let’s shed the kind of ‘who cares? who’s listening?’ [attitude],” he said. “Canada counts.”

According to Ignatieff, it’s impossible to launch into a discussion on Canadian foreign policy without considering Canada–US relations. However, he warned that Canada has to manage the difficult balancing act of being a “capable, credible security partner with the United States while maintaining an absolute control over our sovereignty at that border.”

Canadians are justly proud, Ignatieff says, of sharing the largest unprotected border in the world. But since 9/11, he warns that it’s become a “stickier and stickier” issue.

“You can’t go to many of our border crossings without being concerned that the border is going to become a choke chain,” he said.

PLEASE SEE **IGNATIEFF** ♦ PAGE 4
ALSO READ **VARGAS** ♦ PAGE 6

Final I-Week keynote calls for global change and equality

JENNIFER HUYGEN
News Staff

Sustainable development, both on a global scale and in our own backyard, sparked heated discussion at last Thursday’s International Week keynote speech featuring economist Jeffrey Sachs, journalist Andrew Nikiforuk, and Dr Rick Hyndman, a senior policy advisor with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers.

Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, was unable to attend the conference in person and delivered the keynote to the audience via a pre-taped address. Earlier in the week, he had been called on to attend a summit in Africa as part of his role as special advisor to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon.

Beginning with his regrets for not being able to attend the I-Week event, Sachs launched into his speech, which he entitled “Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet.”

“The idea of common wealth is that we’re in this together in the world. We have a very crowded world, and we have to understand the economics of a crowded planet, and we have to

understand our common fate on that crowded planet,” Sachs said.

He identified four underlying trends of globalization on the planet, which he referred to as the “quadruple conundrum”: global economic convergence, ecosystem pressures, demographic change, and extreme poverty.

Highlighting in particular the role of universities and their ability to build the skills needed for sustainable development, Sachs touched on the need for change to reach any kind of reconciliation.

“We need a new kind of training and a new kind of thinking so that these fundamental drivers of global change can be understood, can be viewed in a holistic and integrating manner, and can be addressed globally and on a scientific, ethical, and professional basis,” he explained.

For Sachs, this change must keep pace with rapid growth. Current population trends forecast an additional 2.6 billion people on the planet by 2050, and the adverse effects of population growth and technological progress have already caused unsustainable dimensions of environmental damage.

PLEASE SEE **I-WEEK** ♦ PAGE 3

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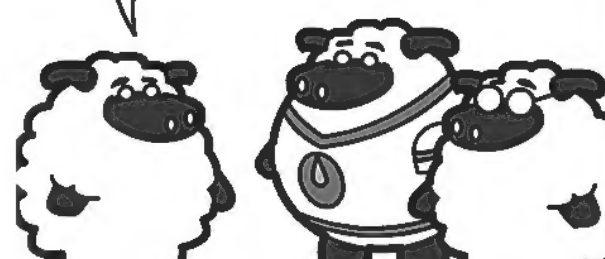


Healthy graduates

Three graduating men’s volleyball players went out with a bang, winning their last regular-season home games.

SPORTS, PAGE 13

TWO LITRES OF POP
AND A STOP-OVER AT
WENDY’S DOESN’T
COUNT AS BREAKFAST.



Unhealthy undergrads

Proper nutrition be damned—
Norman Lau reveals the secret of
being an efficient student in *Ewe of A*

COMICS, PAGE 16

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Comments, concerns, or complaints about the Gateway's content or operations should be first sent to the Editor-in-Chief at the address above. If the Editor-in-Chief is unable to resolve a complaint, it may be taken to the Gateway Student Journalism Society's Board of Directors; beyond that, appeal is to the non-partisan Society OmbudsBoard. The chairs of the Board of Directors and the OmbudsBoard can be reached at the address above.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna, Kepler and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are N+, Lights Out, PixelJunk Monsters, but who the fuck cares because it's my birthday.

contributors

Tom Von Smith, Jennifer Huygen, Cody Civiero, Sam Brooks, Tara Stieglitz, Lauren Stieglitz, Cyril Balitbit, Katie Mooney, Gary Allen, Edmon Rotea, Vanessa Horne, David Johnstone, Bryan Saunders, Ben Stanford, Paul Knoechel, Tom Wagner, Chris Viard, Betting on the long-shot, Norman Lau, Ross Lockwood, Jeff Martin, Can you eat butter?

CAMPUS
CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero

ROAD RAGE

On 22 January at 6:15pm, a Campus Security peace officer asked a driver to move his vehicle in order to relieve the traffic in response to a complaint of a traffic jam on 112 street. The driver responded with several expletives and drove away, spinning his tires and driving through a stop sign in the process. The driver was then pulled over, at which point the CSS member calmed the driver down. The driver told the officer that he was having a bad day. The driver was then sent on his way with a ticket for parking in an emergency zone, but only received a warning for stunting and the stop sign violation.

HAZMAT, WILL TRAVEL

At 9:45am on 23 January, Campus Security and the Edmonton Emergency Services responded to a chemical spill in the Chemistry building. A University plumber was working on a sink drain in the room and was splashed with a corrosive liquid that was in the drain. The Edmonton Fire Department HazMat team was called out, and the building was evacuated. The chemical was found to be neutral, with minor corrosive effects. The plumber was taken to Health Services for treatment of a minor eye irritation.

DROP IT OFF LIKE IT'S HOT

On 23 January at 10:30am, Campus Security responded to a mischief complaint at the Devonian Botanical Gardens located southwest of the city. During the

previous night, someone drove a vehicle through a fence and onto the property, where they drove recklessly through several areas and caused an undisclosed amount of damage. The vehicle was then set on fire while the driver left the area. The incident is currently under investigation by CSS and the RCMP.

WE ARE GETTING VERY SLEEPY, BABY

At 8:00am on 25 January, a female student was walking near the Tory Lecture Theatre when she was approached by an unidentified male who began asking her strange questions. The man said he was interested in having the student "hypnotize" him. He then made unwanted advances toward the student. The student ignored the male's comments and walked into the building, while the man continued walking east-bound along Saskatchewan Drive. The suspect is described as Caucasian, mid-30s, approximately 6' tall and weighing 200lbs, and carrying an over-sized pocket watch.

DOUBLE-DUI AT DENT-PHARM

On 27 January at 2:40am, a vehicle was stopped by Campus Security peace officers for driving the wrong way on a one-way on 89 avenue in the bus loop in front of the Dentistry/Pharmacy Building. The driver was found to be intoxicated and was subsequently turned over to the Edmonton Police Service. The driver blew almost three times the legal limit and was charged for the offence by the EPS.

A second vehicle was stopped by Campus 5-0 for driving the wrong way on 89 avenue at the same time as the above-mentioned driver was being arrested for driving while impaired. The second driver was also impaired and turned over to the EPS.



KATIE MOONEY

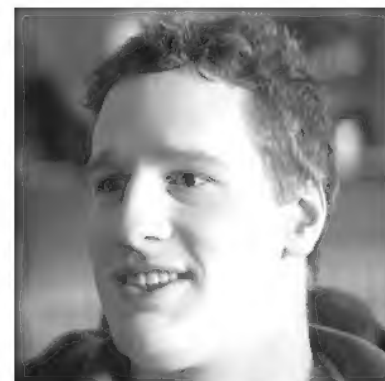
ALBERTA'S ALTERNATIVE Kevin Taft, leader of the Alberta Liberals, gave an alternate Throne Speech last Thursday on the U of A campus. The Conservatives delivered the actual Speech from the Throne yesterday afternoon.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Steve Smith and Sam Brooks

As you may be aware, yesterday was Super Bowl Sunday, and tomorrow is Super Tuesday in the American presidential primary season.

If you could preface anything with the word "super," what would it be and why?

**Fiona Francis**
Engineering III**Ronna Morines**
Nursing I**Trevor Anderson**
Phys Ed III**Aanu Abiola**
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MIKE OTTO

A KOZAK MOMENT Lawyer Fred Kozak tackled issues relating to media bans during a lecture last Friday in the Law Centre.

Local media lawyer weighs in on open courts and publication bans

VICTOR VARGAS
News Staff

Until recently, anyone requesting a media publication ban would be granted one in Alberta.

But according to Fred Kozak, a media lawyer representing the *Edmonton Journal*, the CBC, and the *Globe and Mail*, media publication bans are impractical and outdated.

Kozak explained at a lecture on open court principle last Wednesday that previous restrictions on the media in courtroom reporting were based on the assumption that the courts can control the flow of information and that they should control it because jurors cannot be trusted.

However, Kozak argued successfully in 2007 to an Alberta judge that publication bans had become unrealistic and unfair in today's age. Prior to the ruling, anyone simply requesting a publication ban at the bail hearing would be granted one automatically.

"I think that now [that] judges actually have an understanding that there has to be evidence to grant a publication ban, they're not as likely to grant it based on speculative evidence," he said.

Kozak explained that because of the perceived need to keep jurors unpolluted by information regarding a trial, the major media outlets would be shut out of the courtroom as early as the bail hearings. However, Kozak believes that since the Canadian court system doesn't allow jurors to be asked if they had heard evidence outside the trial or what effect external information played

in their decision-making, any argument that jurors would be influenced is simply speculation.

"You either trust jurors or you don't," he stated. "If this is the evil we are trying to address by this ineffective means, then do away with the jury system or incorporate another safeguard."

Kozak also argued that in today's age of communication, Canadian courts have lost the ability to control the flow of information, and therefore, the publication ban could only punish major Canadian news outlets.

"I think that now [that] judges actually have an understating that there has to be evidence to grant a publication ban, they're not as likely to grant it based on speculative evidence."

FRED KOZAK
MEDIA LAWYER

Moin Yahya, an assistant law professor at the U of A and active blogger on the Faculty of Law blog, explained that it's virtually impossible to keep information from being leaked out of a courtroom. He believes that with the ability to load videos onto sites like YouTube with only a cell phone, only physically banning people from the courtroom could prevent bloggers

from leaking the information.

However, Yahya doesn't see this as a viable option. "The answer is increasingly no, and that kind of exposes the problem with creating these media bans in the first place."

He believes that courtrooms should take bloggers into account when making these publication bans and recognize that some of these blogs have as much or even more pull than the media.

"Some of those blogs in the States get 25 000 hits a day, and some others get 50 000. So that's more hits than some local media, like a small town newspaper," Yahya said.

However, Kozak said that even before blogs, he questioned the ability of the courtrooms to control information. Kozak cited several examples of how that information can be spread or how the ban can be circumvented by other means.

"The police [...] like to illustrate how strong a case they have. They like to appear in the paper saying '30 000' names in this database we found. If the media find out about it from some other source other than bail hearing, there is no restriction on reporting," he said.

And although Alberta is one of the few provinces that has loosened its restrictions on publication bans, Kozak believes that one way or another, the information is out there for anyone wanting it, and eventually the court system will have to accept it.

"The days where courts thought we had mainstream media and we could send a message to these relatively concentrated groups of owners that could be punished—those days are gone."

Panel commented in Sachs' absence

I-WEEK ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"As we all increasingly appreciate, there is a downside, at least with the way we're doing it right now, and that is with our current technologies [and] the way we deploy them—energy, our fossil fuel use, the way we manage water, the air, the way we manage land use, and land use change," Sachs said.

On a more local scale, Nikiforuk, an environmental journalist and author from Calgary, drew several parallels between the downside of economic convergence and the development of oilsands.

"All of this spectacular growth has come with great environmental degradation that now critically threatens our water supply, our air quality, the health of our agricultural and forested lands, as well as the health of Aboriginals that live downstream from the tarsands."

He listed numerous environmental

statistics on the future outlook of our provincial landscape and provoked laughter while explaining that the federal government now ironically refers to climate change as "a threat to oil sands production."

Speaking for the environmental policies of the oil industry, Hyndman, a former professor of economics at the U of A, used a slideshow to illustrate the economic uncertainty of cutting down on reductions and the need for progressive policy.

"What we really need to do is to set out a policy price path for emissions so that industry will know, so that consumers will know that we're going to move from the modest \$15-a-tonne [...] Alberta policy that we have today," Hyndman explained. "The argument that Sachs was making, that it might not be cheap ... carbon capture and storage is definitely not cheap, but it's doable, and it's affordable if we do the policy the right way."

At the conclusion of the speeches, the two commentators responded to questions, coping with several audience members lambasting gov't policies and throwing personal attacks against Hyndman and the oil industry.

Each speaker managed to shrug off the adversarial atmosphere of the discussion, and both remained focused on sharing their views of how one can reconcile sustainability and manage climate change, especially in Alberta.

Sachs, however, took the issue back to a fundamentally global scale. He also remains hopeful that solutions to these problems are possible.

"We can dream a better world, we can work in practical ways to achieve a better world, and we should understand that the core reason we can do that is that so many of our problems are man-made and are solvable by people working together in a spirit that appreciates the common fate that we have on the planet."

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Canada needs to flex its international muscles—Ignatieff

The academic-turned-politician stresses that there will be no easy roles for Canada's military forces throughout the 21st century

IGNATIEFF • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But the border is not just on the 49th parallel, Ignatieff pointed out, stressing the emerging salience of the arctic frontier. Ignatieff said that climate change is literally changing Canada's geographic dimensions and stressed the need to work out a stable, long-term legal framework for the development of the north before turning his attention once again to our neighbours to the south.

86 per cent of Canada's economy is integrated with the Americans, he said, but what that means for the national Canadian economy remains unclear. Ignatieff credits NAFTA for spurring economic growth, but also blames it for contributing to increasingly regionalized economies.

"The north-south linkages in our economic system now, I think, are stronger than our east-west ones," he said, adding that in order to maintain a strong national economy, Canada needs to diversify its markets.

"I would hope in the next generation [that] we start putting our eggs in a bunch of baskets; my instinct tells me that builds a stronger, safer economic foundation for your future."

However, he says that foreign policy can't be fully examined without considering the role of Canada's military

in the international arena. Canadians are struggling, and that to accept that the Pearsonian model of peacekeeping that has become so much a part of our national identity often isn't enough to protect civilians in danger.

"Canada is unaccustomed to banging the table. [But] we have to be much tougher in the international arena."

MICHAEL IGNATIEFF
DEPUTY LIBERAL LEADER

"One thing I've learned from 15 years out there in the killing zones of Africa and the Balkans was that you can't protect human beings with blue berets and a side arm," he said, pointing to what happened in Rwanda as a prime example of this reality.

According to Ignatieff, human indivisibility has to be the driving force of the sense of international obligation and international citizenship.

"But it can't just be talk," he said. "When we make a promise to protect civilians in danger, we do it properly,

or we don't go at all."

In regards to the current situation in Afghanistan, he acknowledges the ambiguity that surrounds how to measure success in the region, but that from his own experience of being in Kabul in 1997 when the Taliban took over the city, he has a sense of what losing would be.

"We don't know what success looks like in Afghanistan, but we sure know what failure looks like: the Taliban take over, civil war restarts, the girls who are going to school don't go to school, the women who get health care as they deliver their children don't get health care, [and] we slide back," he said. "Victory is not clear, but losing this is pretty clear to me, and I don't think we want to lose."

"Of all the places in the world right now where Canada matters, Canada matters most in Afghanistan."

"We have made promises to the Afghans, [and] Canada has to decide what those promises are worth."

The problem, he said, is that Canada is an active participant in almost every multilateral institution, but not used to using its own leverage.

"Canada is unaccustomed to banging the table," he said. "[But] we have to be much tougher in the international arena."



CYRIL BALITBIT

IGNITING IGNATIEFF The Deputy Leader of the federal Liberals discussed the importance having a Canadian presence on the stage of global politics.

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Everything super in America today

BY ALL ACCOUNTS, AMERICA IS HAVING A SUPER week. It started on Sunday, with the decadent spectacle of American grandeur that is the Super Bowl being played out in the middle of the desert. Highlights included a half-time show by a crusty classic-rock veteran and the shattering of the Patriots' 18-0 record by the underdog Giants. Everything, it seemed, was in brazen defiance of sense and sustainability.

But the final score is hardly what matters. The game itself is a side-show, an hour-long distraction meant to break up the otherwise never-ending parade of speculation, analysis, advertisement, and just plain filler. It's the promise of a game, starting with the 9am pre-game show and ending in the late hours of the evening—or whenever viewers decided to turn it off along the way. Indeed, it was a matter of sheer mathematical probability that those hoping to catch a 60-minute match would miss it if they blinked, or at least peeled themselves away from the million-dollar commercials long enough to load up on chicken wings. Even the advertised 4:30pm start time is unreliable, with the actual kickoff happening somewhere around 4:52pm—but such minutiae becomes relatively meaningless when you've been waiting for almost eight hours already.

Similarly, when the water-cooler chat on Monday mornings across America inevitably came down to whether people had “seen the game,” much more was at stake than the outcome of the match itself. The real question was, did you partake in the spectacle? Are you one of us? To not watch is to be un-American, un-patriotic, whether you cheer for the Patriots or not.

But by today, America's thoughts will have turned to Super Tuesday, arguably the more important and sophisticated of the spectacles currently being played out on America's centre stage. Only this time, it's not in one city; it's in as many as the candidates can hit in one day—if not in person, then with some cleverly placed halftime ads of their own. Expensive, but well worth it, as any marketer (or campaign manager) can tell you.

The stakes are even higher on Super Tuesday because, upset or not, the winner will claim bragging rights for four years, not just one. Only this time, the roles are reversed: the players are the spectators, and those whose patriotism is being called into question are the politicians. “Will you eat this hot dog?” “Will you kiss my baby?” “Will you save America?” These are the hard questions being asked of the candidates, and the one who answers the best—or at least the most—will emerge victorious.

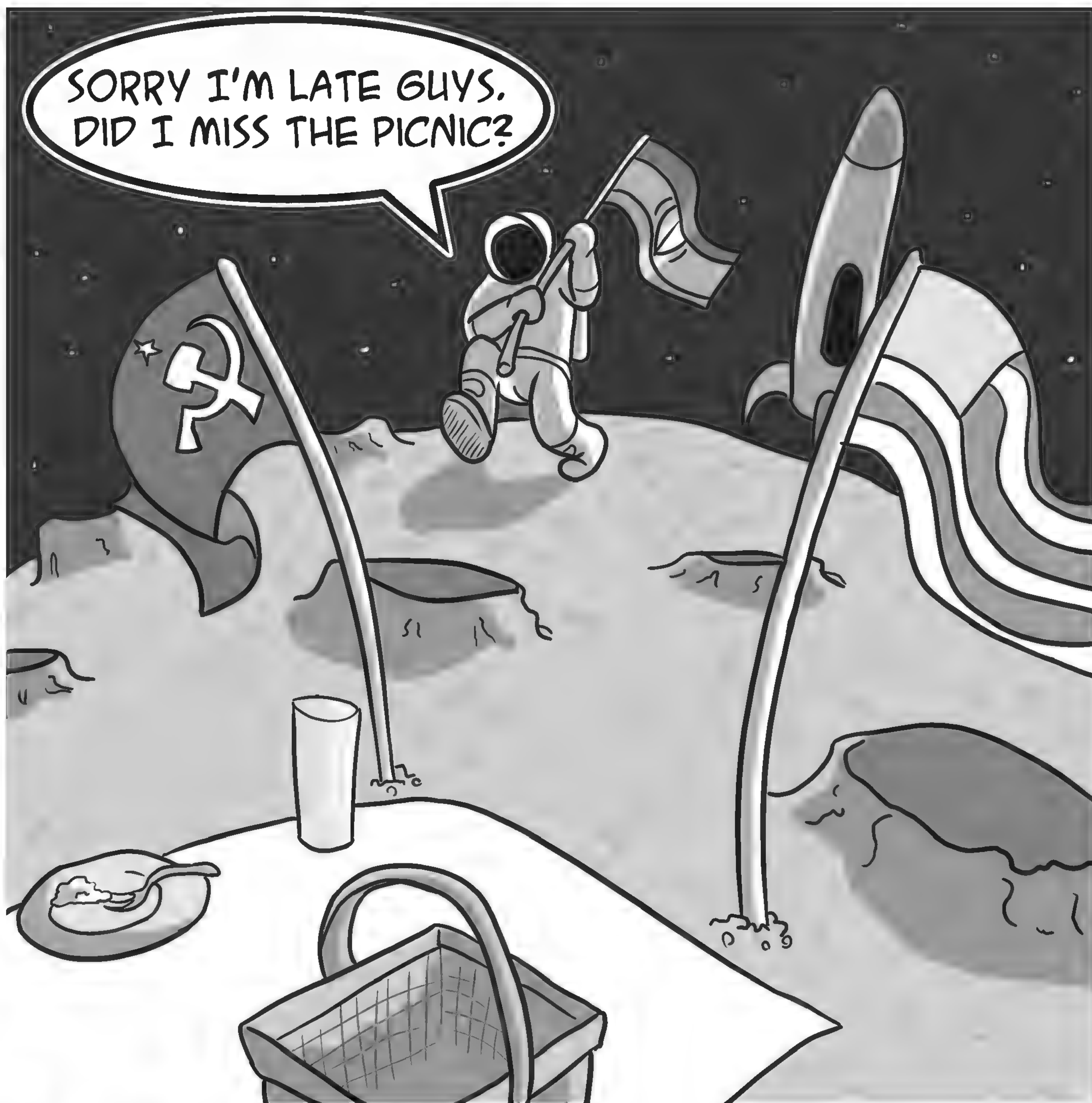
This spectacle of democracy is even longer and more drawn-out than the Big Game. A needlessly convoluted process that gives voters the illusion of choice and due political process, Super Tuesday is just a part—albeit the biggest one—of the presidential primaries, which means that even when today's big game finally comes to an end, no clear victor will have emerged.

Regardless of the score, there's no end in sight: after the primaries, the presidential race will begin in earnest, and almost in spite of the months of trash-talking and press coverage that will ensue, America won't get itself a new leader until November. And even then, no matter who becomes the next president—be it a black man, a white woman, a septuagenarian POW veteran, or a smooth-talking Mormon missionary—there's still no guarantee that the game will be played any differently.

As of yet, there's no name for this political spectacle as a whole; perhaps, if by some miracle it were contained in a single month, a witty moniker like Super November would emerge. More likely, however, it will only continue to expand like so many waistlines across America, as the spectators of democracy look on in confusion, stuffing themselves to their hearts' content with ballots, beer, and chicken wings and cheering on their favourite players.

As for me, I think I'll stick to the Super Bowl, despite its obvious flaws—at least then I'll be able to understand the rules, and I won't have to care about the outcome.

ADAM GAUMONT
Editor-in-Chief



CONALPIERSE

LETTERS

Forget your revisionist history—PAC was a POS

This letter is in response to Eric Kerkhoven's letter of 29 January in which he squarely places the blame on students and their rejection of the 2006 Physical Activities Complex (PAC) referendum for the poor quality and congestion of the Van Vliet Fitness Centre (re: “Students also at fault for poor state of gyms”). Alas, it seems that he's dabbling in revisionist history.

Given that Mr Kerkhoven serves as Chair of the Recreation Action Committee (RAC), it is easy to see that he has put on blinders to the fact that the PAC proposal was a rotten deal for students. That's only natural given that Mr Kerkhoven's predecessors with RAC were responsible for it.

Students were being asked to vote on a building whose plans had yet to be finalized, foot the majority of costs with essentially no say on how the building would have been operated, and faced great uncertainty over when (and if) the student fee would be eliminated. Given all of these (and other issues) with the PAC proposal, it is easy to see why students voted it down.

If students really desire a modern new fitness and recreation centre, as Mr Kerkhoven seems to be arguing, they should be taking the lead on it through the Students' Union. There are at least three buildings on campus that exist because students banded together

and decided they needed better or more space and services. Getting the SU to take on and lead this kind of project will ensure that students get the best deal possible. Not the vague promises and empty vision that the PAC proposal promised.

J ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Just can't let go

Pro-life advertisement leaves a bitter taste

I'm writing this in response to the piece of paper taped to the back of my bathroom stall on 28 January. Normally, I'm immune and uncaring to the various forms of propaganda and advertising that grace bathroom walls; however, I was rather incensed at the sight of this particular piece of paper, which was an advertisement for the U of A Pro-Life organization (or so the stamp on the paper reads at the bottom).

First, I would like to say that I have no personal issue with this organization—everyone has the right to their own beliefs and I do not begrudge them that. I do, however, take issue with the “facts” that they were promoting.

The paper states: “Jan. 28. On this day in 1988, the Supreme Court of Canada struck down the federal legislation restricting abortion. Since then, the number of abortions has drastically increased. Today in Canada, there are approximately 100,000 abortions per year (Statistics Canada). Today, we remember and mourn the victims of abortion, past and present.”

I would have much rather have seen a poster advertising an open house or group meeting to discuss the convictions of the pro-life organization. But to do it in this way does a disservice to those that truly believe for rational reasons that abortion is not the only option.

Though I may be pro-choice, I still heartily believe in options, which is exactly what the Supreme Court ruling was about. By not having legislation on abortion, it gives us choice.

This was a poor showing of getting a message out, an it speaks of bitterness and spite. You should seek to educate people on why abortion isn't the answer and how pro-life is preferable, not to enrage people by the injustice of it all. You only end up pissing people off and reinforcing their determination to stay out of the argument and ignore it.

JENNIFER JONES
Arts IV

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

Can you eat butter? Let us know.

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Gateway ads offensive

I was saddened to read in the 30 January Gateway the full-page advertisement for prophylactics.

That the view of morality as “old-fashioned inhibition” has pervaded our culture is all too apparent. This view is unfortunate because morality is timeless—it's based on laws of human nature and relationships that can never change. One of these laws is that sexual contact other than in a marital relationship robs such a relationship of the special intimacy that is possible only if both partners have reserved sexual contact for each other. As a result, sex loses much of its meaning outside a marriage. The indulgent attitude portrayed in this advertisement is but another of the mistakes of the “play-now, pay-later” society we live in.

I hope that the Gateway will respect the wishes of those students on this campus who don't wish to see this type of advertising in their student newspaper.

ROSS SMILLIE
13 February, 1979

From the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just really hilarious.



Despite what you may have heard, if you lick a toad you won't get high—you'll just look like a moron. And while dropping by our **4pm meetings every Thursday** will also fail to take you to the moon, at least you'll look intelligent while you do it.

GATEWAY OPINION

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37 years far too long for Tories



CHRIS VIARD

“While they cut hospital budgets, they simultaneously gave their rich friends and political donors tax breaks. This is also the government that cut medical spaces at Alberta’s universities, introduced health care premiums, and tried desperately—yet thankfully in vain—to privatize our health care system.”

We will very shortly be going to the polls for a provincial election, and it's now incumbent upon us to make the most out of this opportunity. Every single province in Canada has changed its elected representatives at least once in recent memory, but Alberta has bucked the trend by keeping the Progressive Conservatives in power for 37 years. It's most certainly time for a change, and there exists for the first time a chance that might happen.

After being crowned king of Ralph's world, Ed Stelmach has had an eventful run as Premier. He took on abysmally low royalties, skyrocketing pollution and carbon emissions, a huge increase in homelessness, strained public infrastructure, and a population whose demographics have changed considerably. His response to these numerous challenges has been consistent, in that it's consistent with 37 years of indifference, business pandering, and generally selling out the public trust.

Greenhouse gas emissions are continuing to rise at a dramatic pace with no end in sight, yet Stelmach insists on business as usual with his pathetic and toothless “green plan.” This plan doesn't foresee cuts in emissions until 2050, and thus can hardly be described as green at all. Perhaps too many years of oil industry donations to the party have made Stelmach and his cronies a little skittish about saying no to Big Oil, despite the fact that this is increasingly what the population is demanding.

Sadly, it's not just on the environmental front that the Conservatives have

neglected over the years. Homelessness has become a serious concern, despite the enormity of the wealth that's being sucked out of the ground in this province. One might ask what our provincial homeless strategy entails, only to find out that we don't have one. Instead, the Conservatives say that the market will solve this problem for us, much as it will solve industrial pollution and healthcare problems as well.

This smells of the putrid rot only found in stale and discredited supply-side economics à la Ronald Reagan—or should I say à la Stelmach? Last I checked, there wasn't a massive outpouring of businesses proposing the construction of low-income housing. This is a government responsibility, yet the government is notably mute on the subject. Students are among the first, though not the last, to feel the effects of rapidly rising rents, as the uncontrolled boom has made affordable living just about impossible to find.

On royalties, Ed Stelmach has preached balance between citizens' rights to profit from oil and those of the companies who currently exploit it. It's public knowledge that the Alberta government, with Stelmach as a cabinet minister, knew oil royalties were ludicrously low several years ago yet did nothing about it, costing the treasury billions of dollars in lost revenues. If this wasn't bad enough, most might remember the report that came out a few months ago stipulating that Alberta should be taking—at minimum—an extra \$2 billion a year. Steady Eddie's response: a \$1.4-billion increase that

starts in a couple years. So not only does he sell us out for \$600 million, but he takes his sweet time doing it.

While we're talking about health, one must remember that this government is the one responsible for the deterioration of our health care system to begin with. While they cut hospital budgets, they simultaneously gave their rich friends and political donors tax breaks. This is also the government that cut medical spaces at Alberta's universities, introduced health care premiums, and tried desperately—yet thankfully in vain—to privatize our health care system. As university students, we hardly need to be reminded of the fact that knocking two legs off a table and propping it up with a broom isn't the way to approach a sacred institution such as health care.

Despite all the challenges we face, however, I believe that given the right combination of ideas and leadership, they can be overcome. This isn't what any of us will find with the same tired old PCs. Just once, it would be nice to see Albertans throw the bums out as they have called for so many times at the national level. Regardless of political affiliation, most of us agree that 37 years is too long for any government to stay in power—a fact that was reflected in a recent poll that appeared in the *Edmonton Journal*.

We owe it to ourselves to implement a new environmental/economic strategy for Alberta, and it's high time we lead the country with the merit of our good ideas instead of being an obstacle to sustainable development.

Canadians not all that ignorant, Ignatieff

After all, I know plenty about China—I could probably even locate it on a map



VICTOR VARGAS

All Canadians know that everything, from our flags to our pencils, is manufactured in China. This is because ever since the Chinese accepted the teachings of Communism, the world saw them transform from kung-fu-fighting wise men to business-suit-wearing buddhas that are completely consumed in the quest for the holy dollar.

should be doing business with.

As for India, great movies, like *Indiana Jones* and *the Temple of Doom* have taught us a great deal about Indian culture and history. For example, I learned that a long time ago India was part of the immense and evil British Empire, but one day, a man named Gandhi rose up and freed India from Imperialism after Lord Irwin tossed the Emperor into the CANDU reactor.

And while some would worry that India is a nuclear power currently in a cold war with an unstable Pakistan, they clearly don't understand Indian politics. Since India is a democratic nation, it surely will have the sense not to start anything, say over Kashmir, which could lead to a major nuclear war. If something were to happen in Pakistan, India would take things in stride and make calm, rational decisions—after all, every Canadian knows that democracies always do the right thing.

So take ease, Canada, despite what Ignatieff may think, because you already know everything there is to know about those pesky international issues concerning China and India. And other things like arctic sovereignty and Darfur are issues that will simply resolve themselves. I mean, we live in a world where all free nations are governed well and their leaders make logical and rational decisions. Anyone that would say differently is paranoid and should be tuned out.

It seems that Michael Ignatieff, deputy leader of the federal Liberal party, believes that Canadians don't know much about India or China. During his address last Friday, he implied that Canadians are still stuck in the Cold War and are too Eurocentric, but in fact, Mr Ignatieff would be surprised to know that Canadians are smarter than he thinks.

As Canadians, we above all others pride ourselves on our vast knowledge of the world around us—Rick Mercer proves this on a weekly basis. Granted, defeating the United States in world trivia is about as great a triumph as beating a blind man at Pictionary, but at least we go out of our way to demonstrate our superiority—after all, I don't see anybody putting out a *Talking to Canadians* show.

And while Mr Ignatieff may believe that it's important for Canadians to know about the emerging Asian Tigers, I believe that Canadians not only know enough about these rising powers but have no need to fear China and India's place in the world.

As for India, great movies like *Indiana Jones* and *the Temple of Doom* have taught us a great deal about Indian culture and history.

Some people would argue that such economic power in the hands of leaders who, in many cases, have shown little regard for business ethics might be a bit worrisome. But fortunately, Canadians are smart enough to judge nations by their actions, and through action, China has demonstrated its understanding of international needs. Just this past weekend, in fact, the Chinese showed their generosity by starting up a campaign to divert water from drought-stricken areas just to make sure the world will have a splendid time at the Olympics in Beijing this summer. Clearly any nation willing to do that is a place Canadians



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Are Afrocentric schools segregation or advancement?

This is merely a sorely needed attempt to boost graduation rates



TOM
WAGNER

point

Over the past week, an Afro-centric school that was recently approved in Toronto has been the subject of headlines country-wide.

Faced with dropout rates as high as 40 per cent for English-speaking students of Caribbean descent, leaders of the city's African-Canadian community pitched the idea of an all-black school to the Toronto District School Board in July in an attempt to raise graduation rates. The proposal was approved last Wednesday and was met with heavy criticism, with many of its opponents labeling the school as a return to segregation; however, this couldn't be further from the truth.

The fact of the matter is that Toronto in 2008 isn't the same as Little Rock in the 1960s. Whereas segregation was used by whites as a means to marginalize the black minority, this is an initiative spearheaded by the black community to decrease marginalization through education.

The critics also forget one very important detail: this is a choice. No student is being forced to attend this school or prevented from re-entering the wider public system if the school doesn't suit their needs. In fact, it's likely that the vast majority of students will remain in public schools.

To have a clear and meaningful discussion on this issue, the stigma attached to skin colour needs to be dropped. Whatever critics may want to believe, the core issue at hand isn't one of ethnicity, but of the whopping 40 per cent of students in a specific demographic who aren't even receiving a high school diploma. To put it bluntly,

society is failing these people, and to not even try to improve the situation for fear of being called a racist, however wrongly, is pure cowardice.

What the critics forget is that this idea is far from unprecedented. For example, the Edmonton Public School Board opened Amiskwaciy Academy, a school tailored towards Native students and culture in an effort to increase graduation rates. In fact, this is just one program among many—such as Catholic schools, bilingual programs, all-girls schools, and academic programs—that target a specific type of student.

This wide variety of schooling comes from the understanding that we're not all the same—a fact that's reinforced by the wildly varying graduation rates between different groups. There's no reason to believe that people with highly dissimilar cultural backgrounds will succeed in a school system oriented towards fully integrated Canadian children.

The fact of the matter is that Toronto in 2008 isn't the same as Little Rock in the 1960s.

The proposal of an afro-centric school was brought up to provide students an opportunity to learn in an environment geared towards their specific backgrounds and within the context of their culture. It's just unfortunate that a racial term was used to refer to a group of people with similar ethnicities, obscuring the legitimate sociological basis behind the idea.

No one knows for sure if this idea will work. What's clear, though, is that if no action is taken, large numbers of black students will continue to drop out. Unless we're willing to try new tactics, social and economic marginalization will continue where racial oppression no longer exists.

This just reinforces differences and undermines multiculturalism



CODY
CIVIERO

counterpoint

While the Toronto School Board may have the best interests of black students at heart, such a move clashes with the concept of multiculturalism, a fundamental tenet of Canadian society. And perhaps the best way to foster multiculturalism is through ethnically diverse schools where students of all backgrounds can learn and grow together. Assigning a specific school to students of a certain ethnicity accentuates differences and serves to divide rather than integrate.

The thought that ethnicity is the only variable at play here is both outrageously offensive and clearly bogus.

Advocates argue that a need for special programs emerges from the fact that only 60 per cent of students of Caribbean descent in Toronto are finishing high school. The thought that ethnicity is the only variable at play here is both outrageously offensive and clearly bogus. That's exactly the kind of generalization that leads to prejudice.

It's questionable how exactly Afro-centric schools are supposed to help black students. The school board believes that somehow being immersed in an all-black environment will apparently make them better students. However, what they're actually doing is spitting

in the face of black students and implying that they collectively aren't competent enough to acquire an education without being surrounded by racially tailored programs. It suggests that they can't make it in multicultural and universal public schools, and fails to prepare these students for the real world—because when they graduate, it's not as if they'll be able to get all-black jobs.

If our education system is failing to provide instruction that's accessible to all, we should figure out why and fix the problem—not divide them among demographic groups. If, for example, the public school system is too Eurocentric as far as history classes are concerned, then a focus on African and Afro-Canadian history should be added for the benefit of all, rather than only offering it to those who opt in.

It must be noted that students of all backgrounds would technically be allowed to attend, but in reality it's highly unlikely that a Caucasian or Asian family would feel the need for their kids to attend an Afro-centric school. Even if it isn't officially mandated segregation, it will end up that way in practice because you can't have equality and segregation.

A further problem is that ethno-centric schools assume commonalities that don't exist while emphasizing superficial differences that do. Lumping "blacks" together as a homogeneous group separate from all other ethnicities does more damage than good to everyone. There's no commonly held black culture or background—Haitian-Canadians and an Ethiopian-Canadians clearly don't share the same heritage.

Thinking that an Afro-centric school will solve dropout rates is nothing more than wishful thinking. Let's not allow some misguided individuals to set Canadian multiculturalism back a few decades and hack away at the values that our country is based upon.

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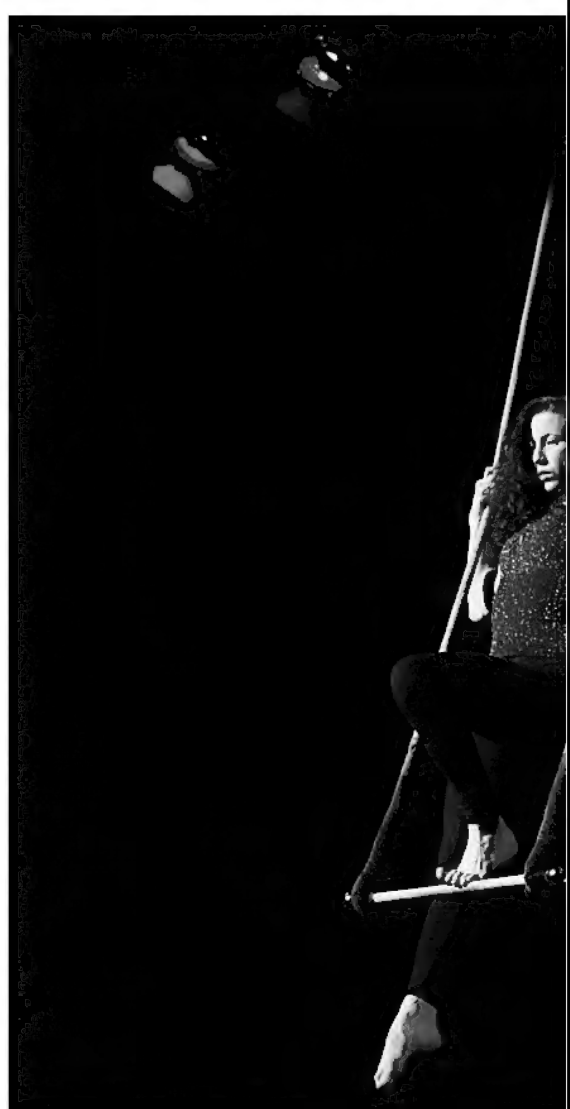
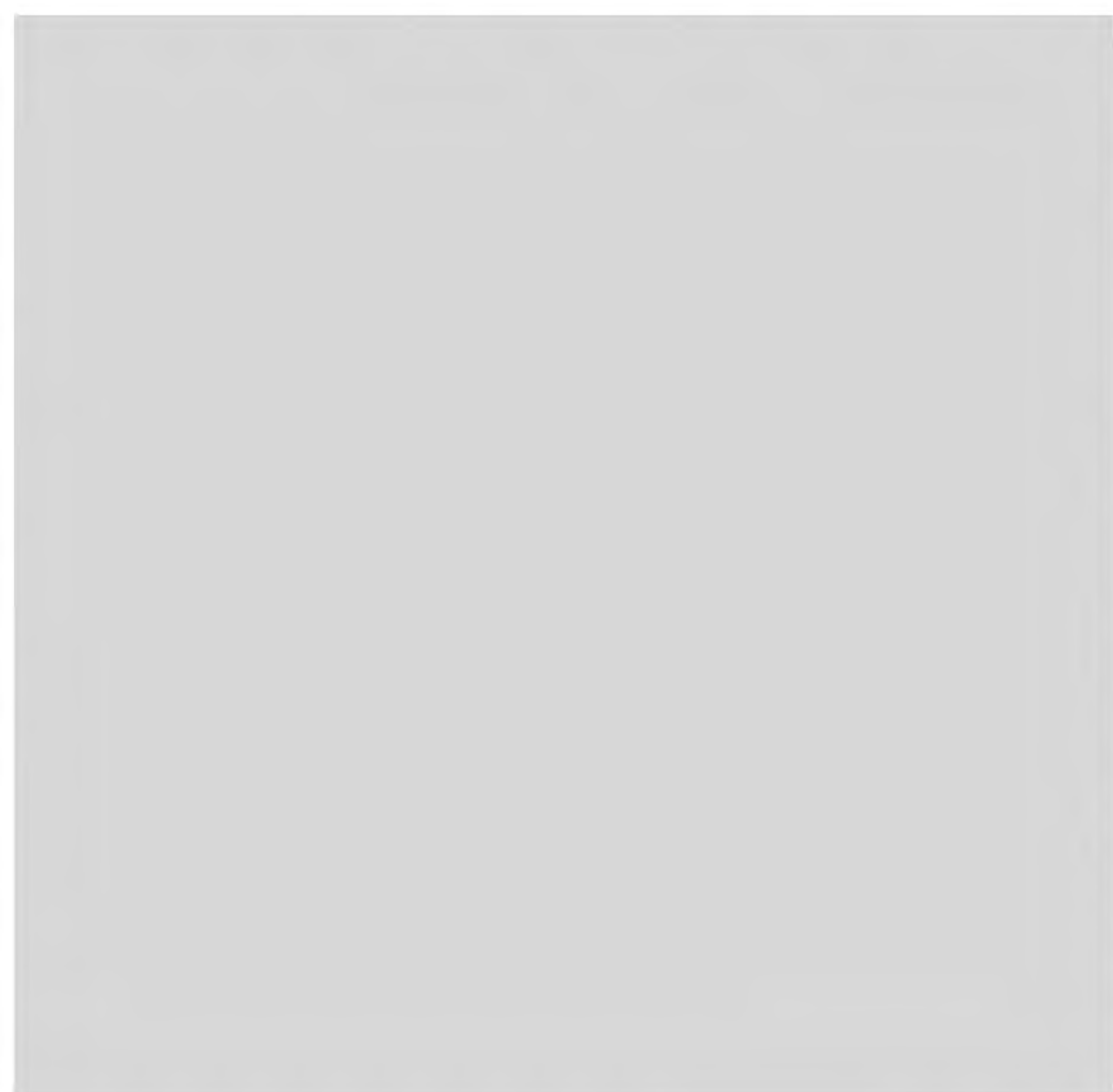
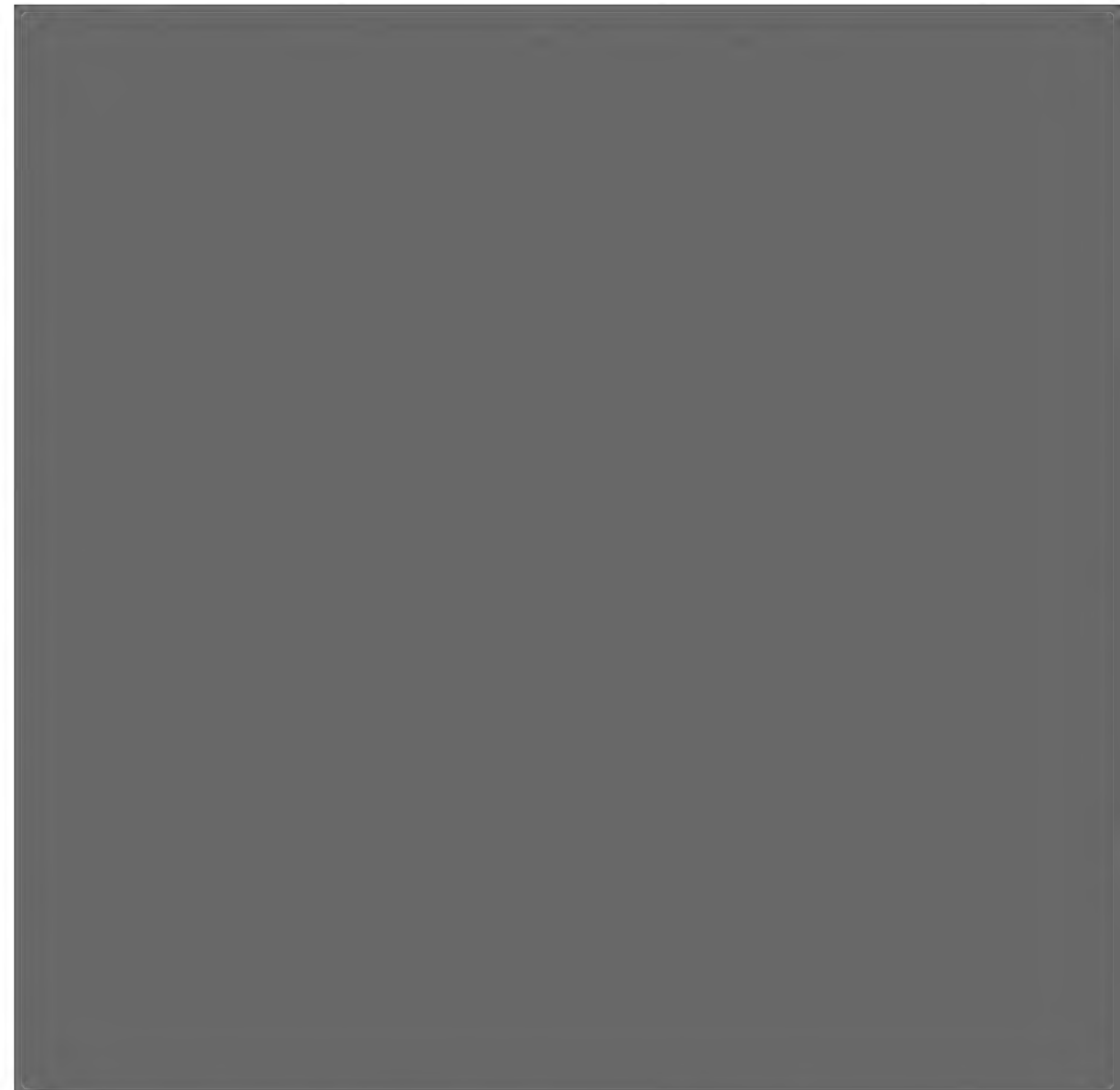
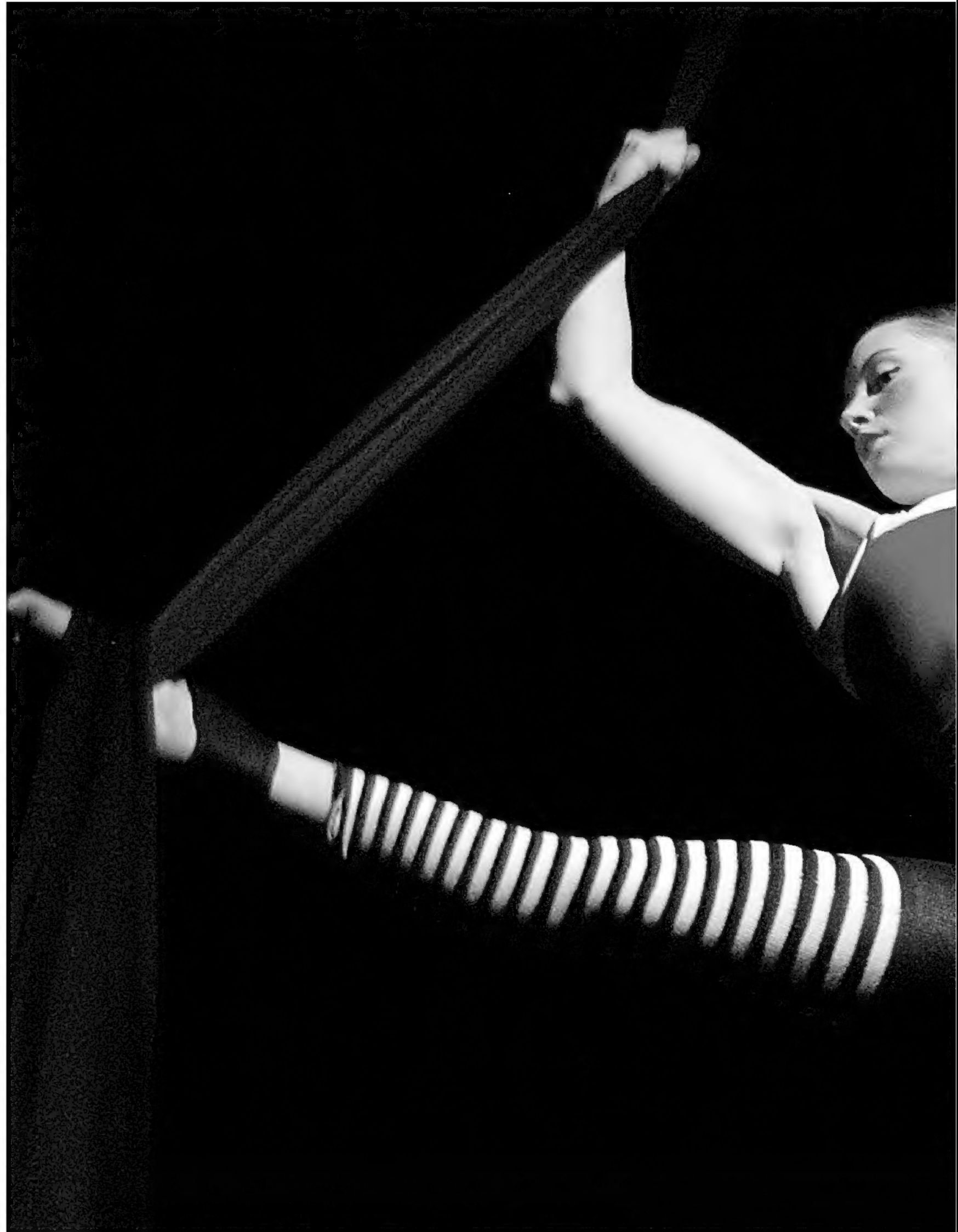
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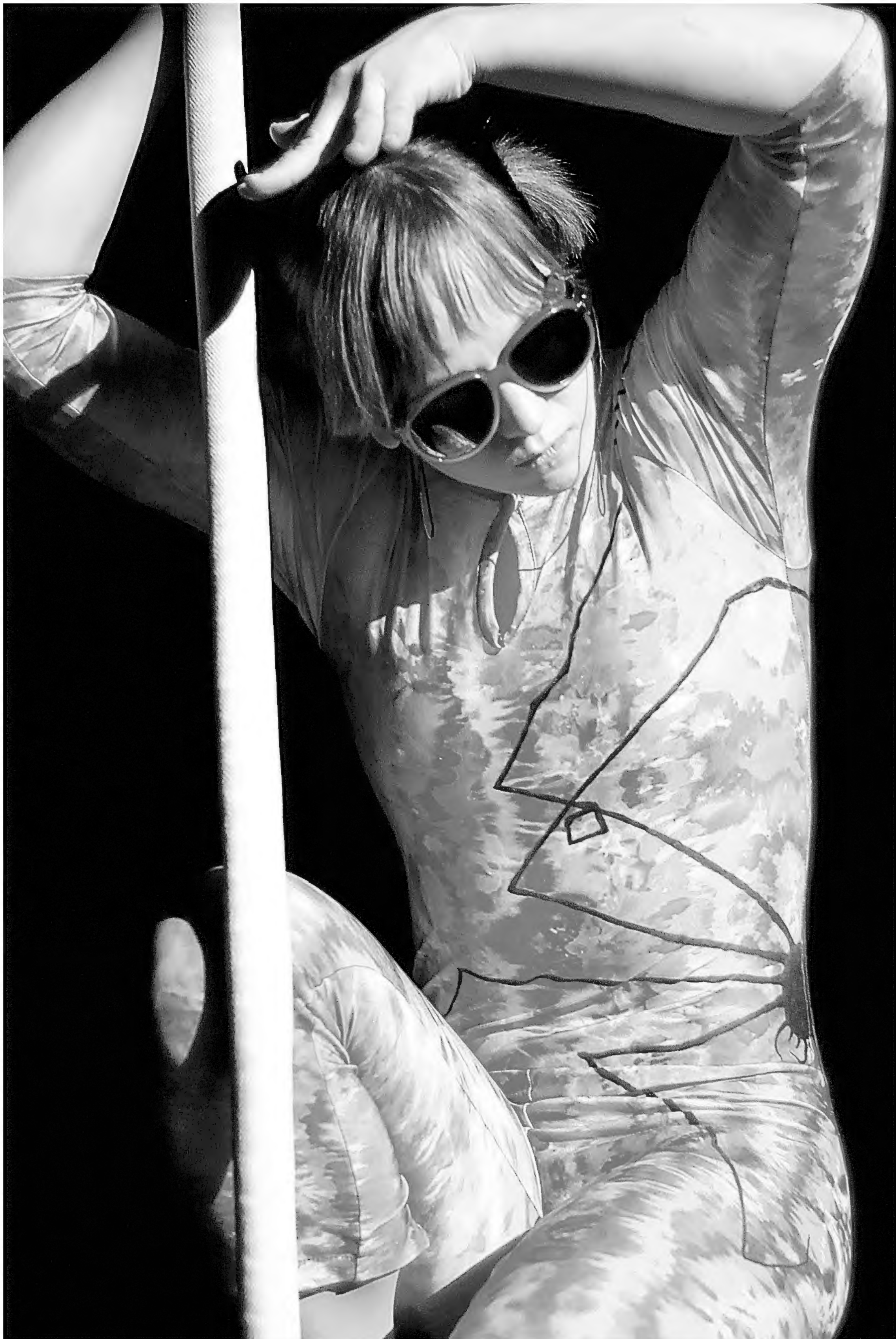
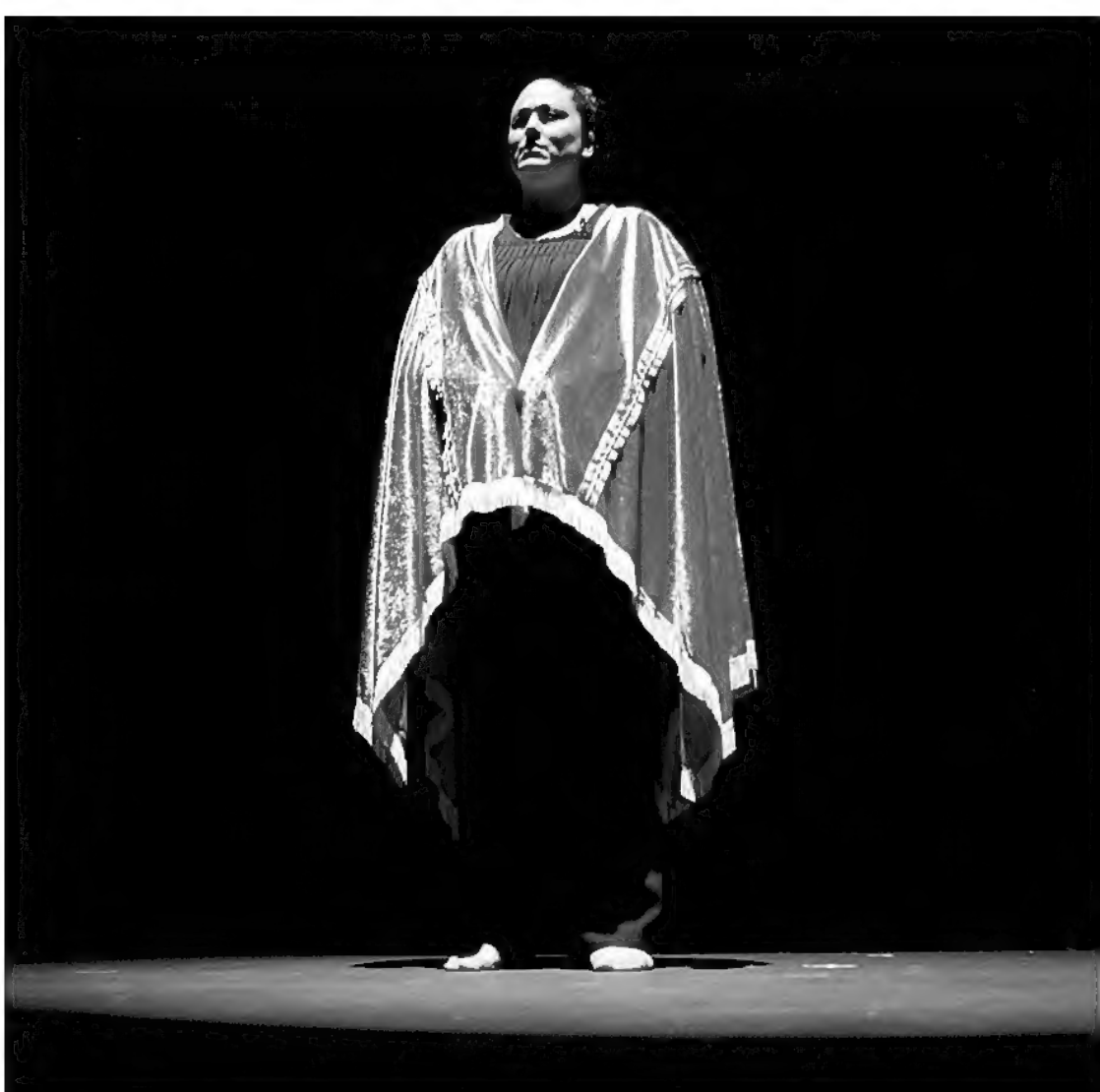
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